

IrishEcho LABOR AWARDS 2025

Friday, September 12, 2025

The Edison Ballroom, 240 West 47th St., New York, NY 10036



Guest Speaker
Thomas P. DiNapoli
New York State Comptroller



Guest of Honor
Sean O'Brien
General President,
The International Brotherhood
of Teamsters



Greetings from Ireland
Gerry Adams





Irish Labor Awards Mark Fifteen Years

By Ray O'Hanlon

The 15th Annual Irish Echo Labor Awards are set for the Edison Ballroom in Manhattan on Friday evening, September 12.

The gathering will honor eleven labor leaders for their varied, but in every case distinguished, service to the cause of labor in America. All will be honored as Irish Labor Ambassadors.

And this year we have a record number of women honorees, four in all. They are Mary Jane Bertram, Suzanne Hughes Fuller, Jennifer Flynn and Kansas Asadoorian.

It's fair to say that, over the years, the contribution of the Irish in America to the cause of labor has been nothing less than immense.

Indeed, it could be argued that the American labor movement would not exist at all in its current form without the efforts of standout Irish men and women, champions of labor all, down those years.

Our celebration in the Edison Ballroom will salute a new generation



of Irish American labor leaders who are flying the flag for today's labor movement across the United States.

Battling for the cause of labor has never been an easy road, no matter where in the world it has been waged. Here in the United States, the cause of labor has, it's fair to say, never had a day off. And that includes Labor Day.

There are forces afoot, and they have been stomping around since day

one of the republic, that view labor as simply that, and nothing more.

And the result is that all too many have to battle tooth and nail to unionize.

The human beings who stand in the ranks of labor, and its representative movement, are seen by some as mere details in a world where profit is paramount.

Now there is nothing wrong with

profit per se. But how it is achieved, and at what cost to the workers who generate it, has been never less than a primary concern of the labor movement, and the leaders of the labor movement.

The aforementioned new generation of leaders are faced with an array of challenges the likes of which have not been seen before. Technology in all its varied forms presents extraordinary opportunities, but also significant challenges.

When it comes to persons or machines the labor movement, by its very nature, will prioritize persons, men and women.

But not everyone with the means of shaping our world will necessarily see things in the same way.

So labor has to constantly learn and adapt in a world that is changing at not just a rapid pace, but an accelerating one.

The leaders we will be honoring on September 12 embody that ability to adapt and learn, and we wish them every success in their future endeavors.



Raffle in aid of Irish American Partnership

Please support our raffle at the gala. Prize generously donated by Jack McGarry of The Dead Rabbit.

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**15th ANNUAL IRISH ECHO
LABOR AWARDS**

Congratulations to all the
2025 Honorees



LABORERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION OF NORTH AMERICA

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General President

MICHAEL F. SABITONI

General Secretary-Treasurer



JENNIFER FLYNN

City and State: Merrick, New York.

Current Company and Position: Department Manager, Employee Wellness Center, Consolidated Edison Company of New York

Family: I'm New York Irish American, my Great-Grandparents proudly come from Carndonagh Donegal (McLaughlin), Carrowmena Donegal (Beatty) and County Waterford (Flynn).

First Job: Library page at the Queens Library.

What it taught me: Organizational skills; teamwork, commitment, and accountability.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Your integrity is an important aspect of who you are. Show your commitment to learn, listen, and persevere early on.

Who is your hero and why? My parents Stephen & Christine are my heroes. They have modeled the way in which I align my values since childhood. They have taught me to aim high, exemplify a strong work ethic, encouragement of authenticity, make an impact, be strong yet humble. They have always encouraged me to be the best version of myself, continuing to learn, grow, and overcome challenges. Their sacrifices, dedication, support and guidance has shaped my life and afforded me opportunities and the foundation for my future.

Jennifer Diane Flynn was born and raised in Howard Beach, Queens, New York. Jennifer attended Our Lady of Grace school and parish. Jennifer continued her Catholic education in high school attending The Mary Louis Academy (TMLA) and then Iona University for her Bachelors of Arts and Masters of Science degrees in Criminal Justice. Jennifer was a prominent leader at TMLA; captain of the softball team, leader of spirit days, Irish society and actively involved

in the liturgies and services with the Sisters of St Joseph. At Iona, Jennifer worked closely with Brother J. Kevin Devlin with student retention, new student orientations and the Edmund Rice Society. Jennifer was on the dance team, Gaelic Society and marched proudly with Iona in the NYC St. Patrick's Day parade.

Soon after graduating from Iona, Jennifer began working at Consolidated Edison Company of New York as a union employee, Local 1-2, Administrative Clerk in Electric Operations. While working in the union, Jennifer attended graduate school at night to attain her Masters of Science degree in Criminal Justice/Investigations. During her career, she has overcome barriers and has been the "Firsts" in many roles. Over the last eighteen years Jennifer has had increasing responsibilities such as but not limited to; the first employee in what was known as EEO (Equal Employment Opportunity Affairs) to transition from Union to Management, first section manager focusing on workplace culture of respect and compliance. She was the first woman in Orange & Rockland Utilities to be named Ethics Director since the inception of the position over twenty-five years ago. She is currently the Department Manager of the Employee Wellness Center promoting the well-being of employees.

Jennifer is well-respected for her innovation and adaptability- she has earned a reputation for fairness, empathy and approachability. Jennifer continues to play an integral role in shaping and leading the company's culture- where every employee is acknowledged for their talents, backgrounds and

experiences. You can call Jenn for advice, guidance, best practice approaches, and consideration for others yet always maintaining a standard of excellence and adherence to policy.

Jennifer was instrumental in revitalizing the Emerald Society of Con Edison to be internally recognized. Her leadership helps to highlight Irish culture and community through organizing, managing and producing events. Jennifer was recently selected as the President of the Emerald Society of Con Edison, in which Jennifer will serve as the first woman to hold that title in its 62 year existence! She will also serve as an executive board member, of which few women hold, for the Grand Council of United Emerald Societies since its inception in 1956.

Jennifer is active in mentorship at her alma maters and participates in numerous volunteering and fundraising efforts. To highlight one area, Jennifer has been donating her hair almost every two years for the last twenty years to organizations that make wigs for children with sickness. The process requires cutting minimum of 12 inches of hair that provides hairpieces to children with hair loss from chemotherapy or autoimmune diseases. Jennifer was a 2021 40 under 40 honoree by the Irish Echo.

Finally, Jennifer was recognized by Con Edison by receiving the highest honor that can be bestowed upon by our employees. She was honored to receive the Living Our Values Award, which is an award that exemplifies the outstanding support and dedication to both her company and her personal life.

We are all so proud of her!



PATRICK KELLEHER

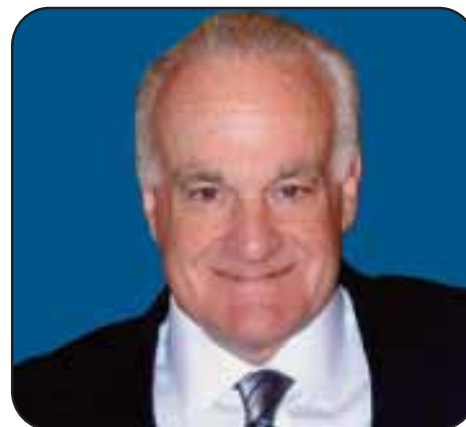
City and State: Dumont, New Jersey.

Current Company and Position: Plumbers Local #24: Assistant Business Manager; Hudson County Building & Construction Trades: President; Hudson County Central Labor Council: Delegate.

Family: Patrick Kelleher is a first-generation Irish American whose roots trace back to two distinct parts of Ireland. His father Denis Kelleher came from Mologhroe in Cullen, County Cork, while his mother Catherine Hughes Kelleher was from Killasser in Swinford, County Mayo. Together, their backgrounds reflect the rich traditions of both the south and west of Ireland, blending the heritage of two culturally vibrant regions. Patrick's family life today includes his son, Liam Denis Kelleher, who is 21 years old and a senior at The Ohio State University, where he is pursuing a degree in finance.

First Job: My first job was as a maintenance mechanic at the Lipton Tea Research Plant in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey.

What it taught me: That role served as my gateway into the plumber's union. While working on the maintenance team, I was first exposed to plumbing work, including tasks like maintaining steam traps, ionized water tanks, and repairing faucets and traps throughout the research facility. The experience instilled a strong work ethic in me—showing up on time, going above and beyond what was asked, and taking pride in learning a skill



thoroughly. It ultimately paved the way for my entry into the plumber's union.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Always bring a positive attitude and be punctual. You truly get out of an opportunity what you put into it, so invest your best effort from day one.

Who is your hero and why? My father has always been my hero, providing steadfast support throughout my life. He helped me get a job at the Lipton Tea plant, where I first worked alongside union plumbers—an experience that led me to take the plumbers' exam and join

Plumbers Local 14, laying the foundation for my career.

Patrick Kelleher is currently the Assistant Business Manager at Plumbers Local 24 and serves as the President of the Hudson County Building and Construction Trades. He is also a delegate to the Hudson County Central Labor Council and the Passaic County Building Trades Council. Additionally, Patrick is on the Executive Board of the New Jersey State Building Trades Council. Patrick's career began as a maintenance mechanic at the Lipton Tea research plant in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, where he was first exposed to plumbing work. This experience paved the way for his entry into the Plumbers Union.

Born in the Bronx, New York, Patrick grew up in Fairview, New Jersey. Patrick joined the Plumbers Union Local 14 in 1981 and graduated from its apprentice program in 1985. Since then, he has been a dedicated member of Plumbers Local 24, holding various positions. He served as a Business Agent from 2005 to 2023 and now serves as the Assistant Business Manager. He is also a trustee on the Plumbers' pension, welfare, annuity, and education funds since 2008.

In addition to his professional roles, Patrick is actively involved in various volunteer activities, including 28 years with Christmas in April/Rebuilding Together, 9 years on the South Civic Association Board of Directors, and 9 years working with Project Impact/Women and Minorities in Construction among others.



Grand Council of United Emerald Societies Inc

PO Box 38 Atlantic Beach, New York 11509

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**The Grand Council recognizes the
substantial contributions of the 2025
Irish Echo Labor Ambassadors to
the American Labor movement.**

**"A special acknowledgment goes
to Jennifer Flynn, President of the
Con Ed Emerald Society."**

Fraternally,

Martin Bellew

President

The Grand Council is a national organization comprising 28 affiliated Emerald Societies that operate in essential frontline professions, including Law Enforcement, Fire Service, EMS, Education, Mass Transit, Public Utilities and Waste Management



Kansas Asadoorian

City and State: Mahopac
Current Company and Position: UA Local 21 plumbers and steamfitters; position: welder.
Family: husband; Peter Asadoorian; step children; Julia and Matthew Asadoorian; my children: Jase Karwaski, Aspen, Hudson, Wyatt Asadoorian.
First Job: Babysitting.
What it taught me: Baby sitting taught me a lot about responsibility, time management and communication. Taking care of children requires me to be attentive, patient, and adaptable-skills that continue to help me in both a personal and professional setting. It also

helped me in my ability to make decisions under pressure.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: My advice to someone starting their professional career is to embrace every opportunity to learn and grow while staying true to your work ethic and values. Approach each task with dedication, seek mentorship from seasoned colleagues, and don't shy away from asking questions to deepen your skills and understanding. Building strong relationships with your team and maintaining a commitment to safety and quality will set a solid foundation for long-term success. Stay resilient through challenges, take pride in your craft, and strive for continuous improvement. Above all, show up every day with a willingness to learn something new.

Who is your hero and why? My hero is my son, Jase. Becoming a single mom wasn't easy—especially when I wasn't making enough to give us the life I dreamed of. I wanted more than just to get by. I wanted to give him a safe, comfortable home, vacations to make memories, and a future he could be proud of. He gave me the drive to change our lives, and more importantly, the strength to push myself outside of my comfort zone.

That's when I decided to apply to

Local 21 Plumbers and Steamfitters. I had some background knowledge from what my dad did when he worked there, and I always knew I was capable of being handy. Still, I went into the job not really knowing what to expect. But I was determined. It wasn't just about a career change—it was about showing my son what resilience looks like. Every step I've taken since has been fueled by the love and motivation he gives me every single day. Jase lit the fire in me to chase something better, and because of that first push, I've been able to build a better life not just for him but for all my kids.

Kansas Asadoorian is a resilient tradeswoman and licensed cosmetologist whose journey reflects determination, growth, and deep commitment to both her career and her family. A 2009 high school graduate, she went on to attend Paul Mitchell Hair School, earning her cosmetology license while also working day shifts at The Cheesecake Factory in White Plains, New York. After graduating, she began working at Benefit Cosmetics in New Canaan, Connecticut, while raising her son, Jase. With her days starting at 6:30 a.m. and ending well after 7:30 p.m. due to long commutes and evening responsibilities, she relied on the

support of her parents, who played a crucial role in helping babysit while she worked and attended school. Their support allowed her to push through long, demanding days and stay focused on her goals.

Despite her hard work, she realized she still wasn't earning enough to build the future she envisioned. In 2017, she made the life-changing decision to apply to Local 21 Plumbers and Steamfitters, where her father had once served as a business agent. She was accepted into the apprenticeship program and spent the next five years honing her craft. She stayed after hours on Tuesdays to practice welding, ultimately earning certifications from the United Association for Stick Welding, and Orbital Welding. That same year, she met her now-husband, Peter Asadoorian, who was already a devoted father to Julia and Matthew. They married in September 2022 and have since welcomed three children together: Aspen, Hudson, and Wyatt.

Today, Kansas continues to build a life she's proud of—balancing the demands of a skilled trade with the joys and responsibilities of a growing family. Her story is one of perseverance, passion, and the power of community and family support.

Suzanne Hughes Fuller

City and State: White Plains, New York.
Current Company and Position: Town of Harrison, Administrator to the Department of Building Code Enforcement and Fire Prevention.
Family: Married to Kevin Fuller, son Michael Fuller, daughter Amanda Avery (husband Kevin Avery) and their children Austin and Brynn.
First Job: My first job out of college was with Chemical Bank, which is now JP Morgan Chase. Starting from the bottom but seeing the potential that hard work can bring contributed to my work ethic.
What it taught me: While it taught me the importance of money management, most importantly, it taught me that you can always do better...bigger and better. There is always room for improvement. There will always be people who tell you no, and don't listen to them. Fight for what is right, especially in your community and the workplace. There are very few people that will advocate for yourself. Be one of those people.
Best advice you could give someone starting out: If you see something that you think can be done better or more efficiently, have the incentive to implement those changes yourself. Don't be the one saying a change should be made...be the one making the change.
Who is your hero and why? Those who stand up for the underserved are our heroes. Whether you are a

teacher, nurse, community activist, or labor leader....anyone who fights for the rights of those you cannot fight for themselves is a hero. My aunt, Nuala Kane, was a woman who served her community above and beyond. A true hero to her community and her family.

Suzanne is first generation Irish, born and raised in New York, with family hailing from Dublin, Ireland. Coming from a long line of strong women paving the way to her own success. A graduate of White Plains High School, she continues to grow and pursue higher education. She has an Associate Degree in Marketing, a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration, and a Master's Degree in Public History. This Master's Degree was paid through her employer, a contract negotiated benefit.

Suzanne currently works in the Town of Harrison where she manages the Department of Building, Code Enforcement and Fire Prevention for the last 23 years. She has served with CSEA Local 860/Unit 9240 as a Shop Steward, Secretary and now starting her third term as President. Fighting for our rights is often a thankless job, but a job taken with sincerity and pride. Suzanne is an Irish dancing teacher with CLRG (An Coimisiun la Rince Gaelacha) and is one of the Chairpersons hosting the North American Irish Dance Championships in Washington DC in July 2025, and serves a treasurer to the Irish Dancing Teachers Association of North America. She also serves as

treasurer for the Dublin Society of New York.

Suzanne loves to support her community through various organizations; cultural, political and philanthropic.



International Union of Operating Engineers Local 137



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Thomas Hurley

City and State: North Arlington, New Jersey.

Current Company and Position: Council Representative with the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters. President of Local Union 253 serving Bergen Essex Hudson & Passaic Counties, Vice President of Hudson County Building Trades.

Family: wife Rachele Hurley; sons Thomas Troy Hurley Jr.; Antonio Thomas Hurley; daughter Ave Rae Hurley.

First Job: Working for my Uncle Gerry's small residential construction company.

What it taught me: Taught me the importance of hard work and taking pride in what you do as a profession.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: God gave us 2 ears and one mouth for a reason. Always be willing to listen and learn.

Who is your hero and why? I would say my grandfather because of the great depression era he was raised in. Working through all the obstacles put in front of a young person during that time and still having some motivation to raise his own family, start a career and make something from nothing. But then I look at my Wife.

I believe behind every strong man is a stronger woman who supports excellence and ambition. Mrs. Hurley is a champion of character and strength. A Mother, career-driven woman who finds time to be the nucleus of my family. Supporting my crazy schedule while running a household and a full time job. A hero in every sense of the word.

Thomas Hurley was Born and raised on the westside of Jersey City, New Jersey. During his career as a Union Carpenter, he worked as a Journeyman, Shop Steward and Foreman in Hudson County. In 2016 Thomas Hurley became a Council Representative with the Regional Council of Carpenters representing well over 10,000 members in New Jersey alone. He later ran and was elected as the President & Delegate of Local Union 253 and now is serving his second term unopposed. 253 serves Bergen, Essex, Hudson, and Passaic counties in Northern New Jersey with well over 3000 members.

Thomas also serves as the Vice President of the Hudson County Building Trades representing all the affiliate Union Construction trades in Hudson County. The building trades represents Union Trades men and women by promoting pro-labor initiatives and advocating for project labor agreements in Hudson County. Thomas is a community leader volunteering for several civic associations in and around the area He lives in benefiting those in need of community services. Organizing food banks, toy drives and backpack giveaways for families in need in Hudson County. Thomas also spends time as a political operative advocating for candidates who support union labor, and workers' rights.

Thomas is married to his wonderful wife, Rachele Hurley and his three beautiful children. Thomas, Antonio and Ava.

Shaun Murphy

City and State: Yonkers, New York.

Current Company and Position: Council Representative for the New York City District Council of Carpenters.

Family: Laura Murphy- wife; Ciara Murphy – daughter.

First Job: Delivering groceries for C-Town on Bainbridge Ave in the Bronx.

What it taught me: How to be responsible and that reliability is everything! It taught me about all different types of people and personalities, how to stay calm, polite, and professional no matter the interaction.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Show up on time and be consistent. Stay humble and treat everyone with respect. Always strive to be better, the worst thing you can do is nothing!

Who is your hero and why? My wife Laura. She stands by me through all challenges in life and makes me want to better myself continuously. She puts Ciara and me first without question and everything she does in life is for our benefit.

Shaun was born in Kilmallock Co. Limerick Ireland to Ger and Gerardine Murphy in 1981. At the



age of 6, Shaun moved to The Bronx with his parents and began his life in the US. After a brief return to Ireland at the age of 16, he then returned to New York at the age of 18 and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. Shaun quickly went up the ranks and was promoted to Sgt before he was discharged in 2003.

Shaun now lives in Yonkers with wife of ten years, Laura, also a Kilmallock native, and his 8-year-old daughter Ciara. Shaun's almost 25-year career in construction began when he joined the carpenters union in 2007. Prior to that he attended Berkeley College for Marketing. Shaun took his position as a Council Representative for the New York City Council of Carpenters in Oct 2024.



GREGORY Lalevee

City and State: Bridgewater, NJ.

Current Company and Position: Operating Engineers Local 825, Business Manager.

Family: wife – Tricia; daughters; Morgan Wukovits, husband John; Taylor Lalevee; Carly Lalevee; stepdaughters; Dana Hayes, husband Colin; Lauren Caputo; stepson - Michael Caputo.

First Job: Lifeguard.

What it taught me: The value of serving others.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Resist instant gratification, don't be afraid of change and identify your goals and stay focused on achieving them. Build your life, your career and your family. Do it deliberately and intentionally.

Who is your hero and why? My father. He taught me that determination and hard work produce results. He also taught me to respect others, always.

Greg Lalevee is a 40-year, second generation Operating Engineer. He spent most of his time in the field as a crane operator working on many critical projects such as the Lautenberg Train Station before going to work for the union as its first organizer. Greg was elected Business Manager of the Local 825 in 2010 and to the IUOE General Executive Board in 2011. He serves as President of the Somerset County Vocational and Technical High School Board of Education and as Vice Chair of the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund. He is most proud of the accomplishments of his children, stepchildren and sons-in-law.



Congratulations to Thomas J. Cleary and All the Honorees at the 2025 Irish Echo Labor Awards!

Local Union No. 3 IBEW proudly celebrates our President, Thomas J. Cleary, for his unwavering leadership, dedication to our members, and commitment to the values that define our union.

We also extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the 2025 Labor Awards Ambassadors. Your hard work and advocacy continue to strengthen the labor movement and improve the lives of working families everywhere.

Local Union No. 3 IBEW – The Right Choice.

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Mary Jane Bertram

City and State: Poughkeepsie, NY.

Current Company and Position: Hudson Valley Regional Director for the Workforce Development Institute.

Family: Spouse - Steve Bertram; 6 children; Christine, Kevin, Jennifer, Aaron, Courtney, Tammi; 5 grandchildren; Jake, Eric, Jaylen, Timmy, Mara.

First Job: My first job in the labor movement was as an organizer for SEIU international. I worked in the southern region of the United States helping employees gain a voice on the job. My first job ever was selling concessions in a movie theater.

What it taught me: What can be accomplished when people work together.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Listen more than you talk.

Who is your hero and why? My hero is not one person but rather all of the workers that stand together against injustice.

Mary Jane was born in Burlington, VT to parents Herman and Margie-Ann Whitenight. As the third of four siblings she had the opportunity to live all over the United States as her father furthered his career as a metallurgical engineer and consultant in the nuclear energy field. The family spent several years living in Tupelo, Miss. Mary Jane was in the 6th grade the first year that enforced busing was begun in the public schools. The anger and outcry during this time puzzled the young Mary Jane and the seeds of a future activist were planted. Her first opportunity to take a stand occurred in High School in Idaho Falls, Idaho and Title 9. Mary Jane participated on the Title 9 committee advocating for

equality in funding for female athletic programs. She also led the battle that allowed the drama, debate and speech teams to earn a school letter just like the boy's football and basketball teams. Unfortunately, she did not benefit from this fight as the change was instituted the year after she graduated.

High School was followed by college, marriage, the birth of her first child and a move to Misawa, Japan. Three more children for a total of two girls and two boys along with several moves and career changes found Mary Jane in Orlando, Florida in the mid 90's working as a clinic director for the National Parkinson Foundation Rehab. In this role she was able to open two clinics and assist Stetson University with the rollout

of an exercise program for Parkinson patients and other individuals with limited mobility. After an unsuccessful campaign to maintain federal funding for this vital program, Mary Jane looked for a new position that would feed her desire for positive change.

In 1999 Mary Jane and the labor movement found each other when she went to work for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) as an organizer for the public sector in the Southern states. After successful organizing drives with the workers of Macon and Savannah, Georgia and a successful organizing drive at the Nashville Public Schools, Mary Jane moved to New York where she



assisted workers form their unions with SEIU 200United. During this time, she served on the Hudson Valley Areal Labor Federation Ex. Board and was elected as a VP for the Hudson Catskill CLC.

Mary Jane joined the staff of the Workforce Development Institute in 2008 where she is the Hudson Valley Regional Director working across nine counties to support and expand access to jobs with family sustaining wages, apprenticeships and pre-apprentice programs.

Mary Jane currently serves on the Dutchess County WIB Executive Board, the CTE Perkins Local Advisory Council, Selikoff Centers Advisory Board, Orange County Partnership Task

Force, Columbia ReEntry Task Force, ESPRI, BOCES Health Occupations Advisory Board, Dutchess County Economic Development Advisory Council and the REDC Workforce committee. She is a past volunteer for the National Chronic Myeloid Leukemia Society and is still active in mentoring newly diagnosed patients. She attended Valencia Community College, Brigham Young University, and received a teaching certificate from the Sogetsu School of Ikebana in Misawa, Japan.

Mary Jane and her husband Steve live in LaGrange, Dutchess County and are the proud parents of their own "Brady Bunch" with 6 children, 4 grandsons and 1 granddaughter.

Trevor Holloway

City and State: Yonkers, NY

Current Company and Position: Senior Estimating Manager AECOM Tishman.

Family: Married to Kerrie; Kids (in age order) - Keelan, Cormac and Eabha

First Job: First job was laboring on a construction site with my father. First paying job was in a butchers.

What it taught me: Laboring with my father taught me the rewards of hard labor on a construction site as you could physically see the progress and development of each project. Working in my local butcher taught me how to work in a fast pace, client serving environment.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Be a sponge by observing and learning from those around you. Tap into the knowledge of those more experienced than you by asking them questions and advise. Always try to learn from your failings and success and use that to your advantage going forward.

Who is your hero and why? My parents. My parents came from humble beginnings in Ireland, emigrated to the US, worked hard and were able to provide so much to my siblings and I. We never wanted for anything. Anything I have accomplished has been a

direct result of their help, advice and guidance. I aspire to emulate them.

Trevor Holloway was born in New York in 1989. He is the oldest son to Robert and Carmel Holloway. At the age of 9, the Holloway family moved to Westmeath, Ireland, where Robert and Carmel had emigrated from over 18 years prior. Trevor completed school and went onto obtain a BSc in Quantity Surveying in Atlantic Technological University Sligo followed by a MSc in Business Management from the University of Maynooth.

Trevor returned to New York in



October 2013, working as a construction estimator. Trevor has been fortunate during his career to work on some high-level projects throughout New York City allowing him to be surrounded by some very talented construction professionals. Trevor's career path has led him to working for AECOM Tishman where he is now positioned as an Estimating Manager.

Trevor married his high school sweetheart, Kerrie in 2018. They have been blessed with 3 beautiful children - Keelan, Cormac and Eabha.

Trevor is very family orientated and enjoys their various weekend activities.

Outside of family and work, Trevor enjoys an active lifestyle where by going to the gym, running, jiu-jitsu and GAA.

Trevor is involved with the Westmeath GAA club in New York where he served as chairman for 2 years and was named Club Person of the Year in 2024.

BAC

Honors and Salutes a New Generation of Irish American Labor Leaders



Tim Driscoll
President

Jeremiah Sullivan
Secretary-Treasurer



Keith Hovevar
Executive Vice President

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DAVID O'BRIEN SUETHOLZ

City and State: Eminence, KY.

Current Company and Position: General Counsel, International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Family: Married: Ellen Yonts Suetholz; Children: Fiona O'Brien Suetholz, Phoebe Quinn Suetholz.

First Job: Bus boy at a steakhouse.

What it taught me: All jobs are worthy of dignity and respect. Wealthy people from my community who knew my parents did not recognize me nor afford me respect as a service employee until I noted my family connection. I've never forgotten that and live my life knowing not a single wheel would turn but for working people.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: All work has value. Embrace it and stand up for yourself. When one is not enough, together we are strong.

Who is your hero and why? Gustavo Gutierrez, a Peruvian parish priest changed the world by introducing a "Theology of Liberation" to the world. He challenged us with a reading of the Gospels that reminded believers we cannot accept unjust social



structures that deny God's precious children a full expression of their potential.

David was raised by compassionate parents and alongside a proud Irish republican grandmother Annie Quinn O'Brien who reminded him at a young age of the injustice Irish immigrants endured and the imperative to stand

against all forms of injustice—economic, racism etc. Her lessons and encouragement to fight back informed his world view and that led him to the labor movement—the primary bulwark for social justice in the United States. His work as General Counsel of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters is not possible without his partner and wife in justice Ellen and daughters Phoebe and Fiona.

THOMAS CLEARY

City and State: NYC New York.

Current Company and Position: President, Local Union No. 3, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Family: Married to my wife Maureen and we have three children Thomas, Lauren, and Matthew.

First Job: My first job was working for F. W. Woolworths Company unloading trucks, stocking merchandise on the shelves and assisting customers.

What it taught me: Working at Woolworths taught me the importance of being on time and helped me learn to interact and communicate better with coworkers. I learned you're going to make mistakes, and that it's important to learn from those mistakes.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: My best advice would be to show up early and be prepared to put in a full day's work. I would tell them to keep their eyes and ears open to learn from those with more experience and to ask questions when they are unsure.

Who is your hero and why? My hero is my father who served in the United States Army as a Paratrooper in the 11th Airborne Division prior to entering Local Union No.3, working as Journeyman Wireman for over 40 years. He is an individual with a quiet demeanor, who has shown me through his actions how much he loves his family. He



has taught me the importance of being a hard worker, to be someone who always stands up for what I believe, and to always believe in myself. His advice on both a personal and professional level has guided me along my journey and has helped turn me into in to the person I am today.

Thomas J. Cleary President, Local Union #3, IBEW. Thomas J. Cleary was born and raised in Rockaway Beach, New York. He has been married to his wife, Maureen, for 29 years and they have three children, Thomas, Lauren, and Matthew. They currently reside in Lynbrook, NY.

Tom is a third-generation electrician whose family has a long history of serving the membership of Local Union No. 3, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. His grandfather, Edward, joined the union in 1920 and served as an original member of the Committee of One Hundred, chair of the union's election board, and first President of the Colony Club which is an affiliated club of the union. Ed Cleary Jr. served the membership of Local 3 as President of the Allied Club of Queens, Examining Board member, President of Local Union No. 3 from 1964 to 1975, and President of the NYS AFL-CIO representing 2.5 million members, retirees, and their families. Tom's father, Tom Sr. is a proud retired Journeyman wireman

who was active with the Allied Club of Queens and served on the Election Board. His Uncle, John Cleary was Superintendent of Jandis Electric and Welsbach Electric.

Tom joined Local Union No. 3, of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers on October 15, 1986, as a member of the supply division, employed by City Electric prior to being accepted into the unions 5-½ year apprenticeship training program for the construction division on May 9, 1988. Upon completion of the training program, he received his "A" Journeyman card on October 13, 1994. As part of the training program, he attended the Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Center for Labor Studies where he earned an associate degree in 1992. In 2012, Tom returned to Empire State College earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Labor Studies. He has advanced his studies in the electrical field through attending classes given through the Educational and Cultural Trust Fund of the Electrical Industry and has received three certificates for attending the 64th, 65th, and 70th International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plan Conferences.

As a member of Local Union No. 3, Tom has worked in a supervisory position as a sub-foreman and foreman on Electrical, Fire Alarm and Tele-Data Installations. He found his real work began when his workday ended, getting involved with the Affiliated Clubs of the union, becoming a member of the Catholic Council of Electrical Workers, the Allied Union Club of Queens, and the Westchester Mechanics Association. Understanding the importance of giving back to the communities in which we work, he always answered the call when asked to volunteer for community service projects being done by these organizations.

See more on <https://www.irishecho.com/events/2025-irish-echo-labor-awards>



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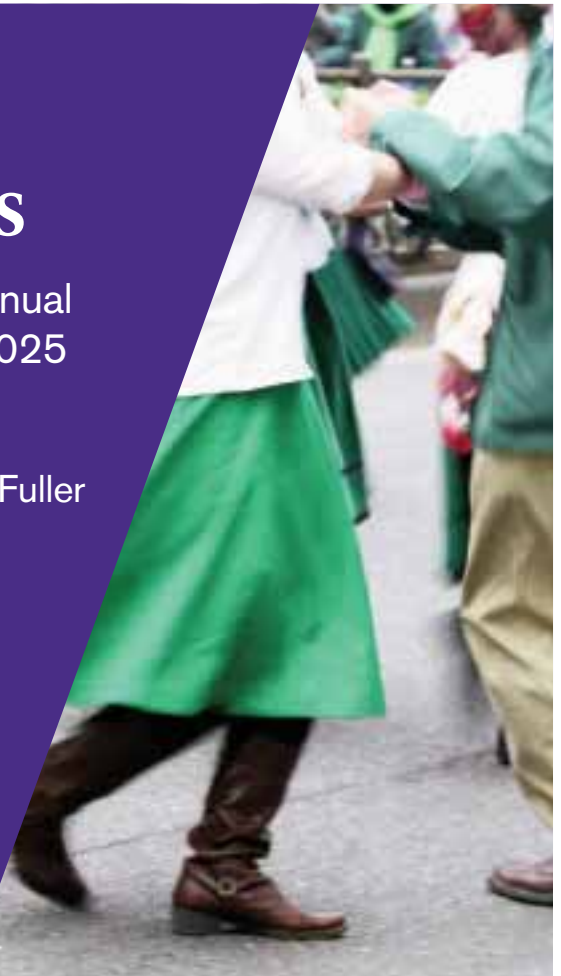


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We Salute this Year's Award Winners

We're proud to support the Irish Echo's 15th Annual Labor Awards honoring the Labor Leaders of 2025

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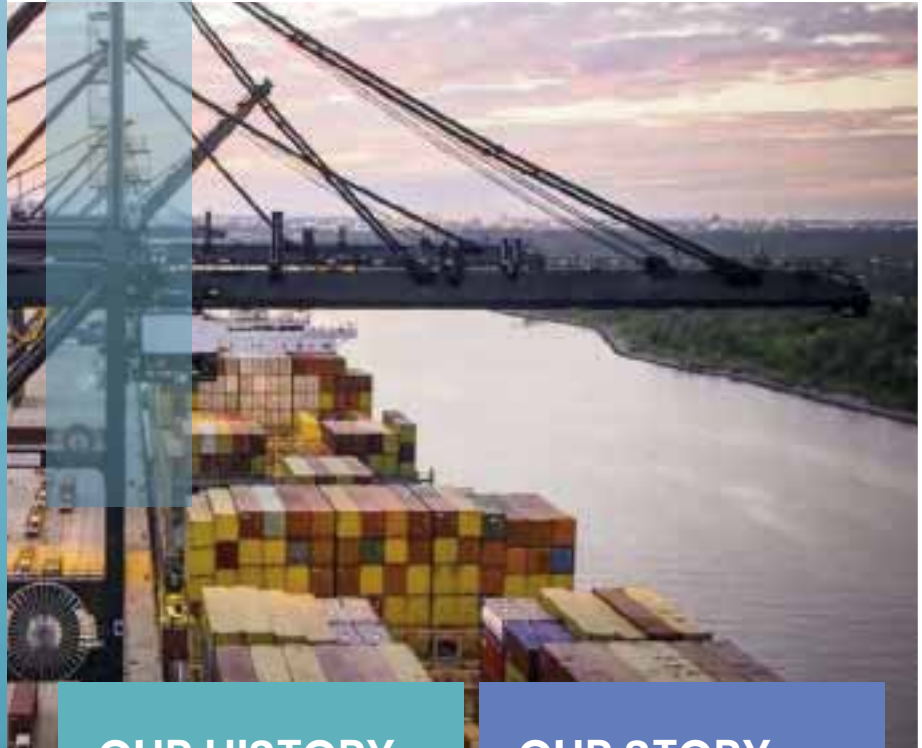
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Organized in 1968, the West Gulf Maritime Association (WGMA) embraced within one association steamship owners, operators, agents along with stevedoring, and terminal companies located in Texas. Today the Association has grown to over 200 members throughout the Gulf of Mexico.

OUR STORY

We negotiate and administer various multi-employer collective bargaining agreements with the ILA. The WGMA provides payroll, payroll support services, and processes grievances. In addition, we coordinate the training of longshore workers to promote a safe and efficient working environment.

WHAT WE DO



Service Hub
WGMA administers payroll services for labor. We coordinate and process grievances, training, and other labor related activities.



Communication
We communicate and coordinate industry issues with various governmental entities in a unified voice.



Informational
Our Daily Industry Update Report provides information on news, events, and forums impacting navigational, environmental, and safety concerns in the maritime industry.



Community
We conduct town hall meetings to give members an opportunity to network and hear the latest activities, news, and developments impacting businesses in the maritime industry.

OUR VISION

The WGMA plays a significant role as a partner for progress in the maritime field. By working towards the betterment of our members, partners, and the industry as a whole, we contribute to the advancement and sustainability of maritime operations and services.

OUR MISSION

We serve our members and partners in the maritime industry by fostering a strong, stable and dependable workforce as well as providing crucial information and representation. We are dedicated to the well-being of our members, partners, and the maritime industry as a whole.

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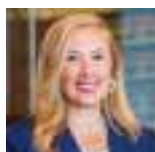
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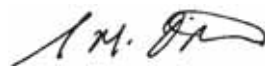
The labor movement is fueled by the principle of solidarity and a basic desire to make the world a better place for all working women and men. Its course has been charted by generations of visionaries united by a shared belief that a better future is possible for those willing to stand shoulder to shoulder and fight for it.

The American labor movement was built in no small part by the blood, sweat, and tears of Irish Americans from all across our country, and the Irish Echo's 2025 Labor Ambassadors continue that noble and inspiring tradition.

The Teamsters Union is pleased to recognize each of these leaders as being honored for their tireless efforts protecting and promoting the rights of working people and striving to build a better tomorrow for us all—especially our very own David O'Brien Suetholz.

As General Counsel of the Teamsters, David has been instrumental in our union's biggest battles in recent years, from negotiating and enforcing contracts that have improved wages and working conditions for hundreds of thousands of rank-and-filers to helping organize over 85,000 new members in the last three years alone. In his unyielding commitment to economic justice, his relentless advocacy for the interests of Teamster members, and his profound conviction that by harnessing our power we can make the world better, fairer, and safer for all, David embodies the very best of our union and of the labor movement as a whole.

The entire Teamsters Union extends our congratulations to David and all of this year's Labor Ambassadors. We wish you a wonderful evening celebrating the impact of the Irish American community on workers around the world.


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General President




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INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

The news on health is not good

By Peter McDermott
pmcdermott@irishecho.com

The Commonwealth Fund approached its 20th presidential election in 2024 with a note of optimism. Although it has long known that much is not well with the American health-care system, it could point to recent improvements and reforms.

The New York and Washington DC-based foundation, which has been around for 107 years and is currently led by Joseph R. Betancourt, M.D., M.P.H., states its purpose is to "promote a high-performing health care system that achieves better access, improved quality, and greater efficiency, particularly for society's most vulnerable, including low-income people, the uninsured, and people of color."

The Commonwealth Fund has published at a rate of every three years or so, since 2004, a report it calls "Mirror Mirror," which looks at this country's health-care system alongside several others. The 2024 edition compared the United States with nine other countries.

That most recent "Mirror Mirror," the eighth, says, "The U.S. continues to be in a class by itself in the underperformance of its health care sector. While the other nine countries differ in the details of their systems and in their performance on domains, unlike the U.S., they all have found a way to meet their residents' most basic health care needs, including universal coverage."

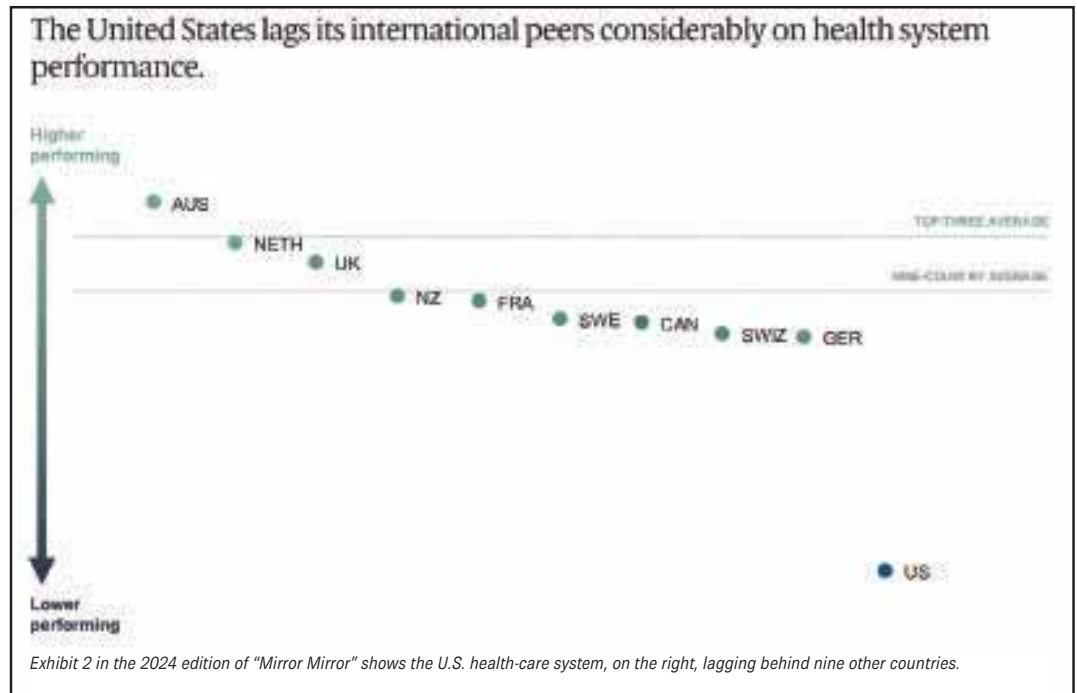
This is all the more remarkable given that the U.S. spends more than 16 percent of its GDP on health care whereas in the other countries studied in the report the figure is between 8 percent and 12 percent.

One of the serious deficiencies of our health-care system is its relative weakness as a safety net, and the huge Medicaid cuts in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act are hardly going to help.

"Cuts of this magnitude are not going to discriminate based on whether you have Medicaid or not," said Rachel Nuzum, Vice-President for Policy at the Commonwealth Fund, in a July 17 webinar reported on by the Echo.

"Mirror Mirror" 2024 analyzed Australia, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. It did not include Norway, the best performing nation in the previous report, because it exited in 2022 the International Health Policy Survey, which is based on interviews with physicians and patients.

One goal in comparing systems is "to glean insights for U.S. improvement." Underlying its method is an analysis of "70 health system performance measures" in



five areas, which are: "access to care," "care process," "administrative efficiency," "equity" and "health outcomes."

Its most fundamental finding was, "The top three countries are Australia, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, although differences in overall performance between most countries are relatively small. The only clear outlier is the U.S., where health system performance is dramatically lower."

Not only is the U.S. 10th of the 10 countries, it seriously lags behind in four of those five overall areas studied, whereas the other nine examined "are more alike than different with respect to their higher and lower performance in various domains."

The report says, "Despite spending a lot on health care, the United States is not meeting one of the principal obligations of a nation: to protect the health and welfare of its residents. Most of the countries we compared are providing this protection, even though each can learn a good deal from its peers. The U.S., in failing this ultimate test of a successful nation, remains an outlier."

The best news from an American perspective is that in one of the report's five main areas, "care process," it comes in second behind New Zealand, with Canada and the Netherlands close behind, while Sweden performs comparatively poorly.

The report explains, "Care process looks at whether the care that is delivered

includes features and attributes that most experts around the world consider to be essential to high-quality care. The elements of this domain are prevention, safety, coordination, patient engagement, and sensitivity to patient preferences."

It continues, "Strong U.S. performance in the care process domain is the result of the successful provision of preventive services, such as mammograms and flu vaccinations, and an emphasis on patient safety. With respect to preventive care, the U.S. record might reflect the vigorous pay-for-performance policies implemented by Medicare and other payers to reward the delivery of these services."

"A concerted focus in the U.S. on patient safety since the beginning of the century has yielded significant reductions in adverse events during hospital stays for heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, and major surgeries between 2010 and 2019," it adds.

"In the U.S.," on the other hand, according to the Commonwealth Fund's "Mirror Mirror" 2024 report, "lack of affordability is a pervasive problem. With a fragmented insurance system, a near majority of Americans receive their health coverage through their employer. While the ACA's Medicaid expansions and subsidized private coverage have helped fill the gap, 26 million Americans are still uninsured, leaving them fully exposed to the cost drivers in the system. Cost has also fueled growth of private plan deductibles, leaving

about a quarter of the working-age population underinsured. In other words, extensive cost-sharing requirements render many patients unable to visit a doctor when medical issues arise, causing them to skip medical tests, treatments, or follow-up visits, and avoid filling prescriptions or skip doses of their medications."

It adds, "In terms of care availability, U.S. patients are more likely than their peers in most other countries to report they don't have a regular doctor or place of care and face limited options for getting treatment after regular office hours. Shortages of primary care services add to these availability problems."

In the July 17 webinar, the Commonwealth Fund's Nuzum and two practicing doctors (Erin Emery-Tiburcio of Rush University Medical Center in Chicago and Harvard Medical School's Sharon K. Inouye) attested to these problems and argued that the coming cuts will make them a good deal worse.

The 2024 edition of "Mirror Mirror" says, "Especially concerning is the U.S. record on health outcomes, particularly in relation to how much the U.S. spends on health care. The ability to keep people healthy is a critical indicator of a nation's capacity to achieve equitable growth. In fulfilling this fundamental obligation, the U.S. continues to fail."

For more information, go to commonwealthfund.org.

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**Congratulations to this evening's honorees. Thank you for your
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Best wishes for a great event!**

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BEST WISHES

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Distinguished Honorees

Mary Jane Bertram • Suzanne Hughes Fuller • Thomas Hurley
Jennifer Flynn • Patrick Kelleher • Kansas Carey Asadoorian
and our

Dear Friends and Clients

Shaun Murphy

Greg Lalevee

Thomas Cleary

Trevor Holloway

and

David O’Brien Suetholz, Esq.



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David O'Brien Suetholz, General Counsel, International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Suzanne Hughes Fuller, President, CSEA Local 860/Unit 9240: Town of Harrison, Administrator to the Department of Building Code Enforcement and Fire Prevention

Jennifer Flynn, Department Manager, Employee Wellness Center, Consolidated Edison Company of New York

Greg Lalevee, Operating Engineers Local 825, Business Manager

Thomas Hurley, Council Representative with the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters. President of Local Union 253 serving Bergen Essex Hudson & Passaic Counties, Vice President of Hudson County Building Trades

Patrick Kelleher, Plumbers Local #24: Assistant Business Manager; Hudson County Building & Construction Trades: President; Hudson County Central Labor Council: Delegate

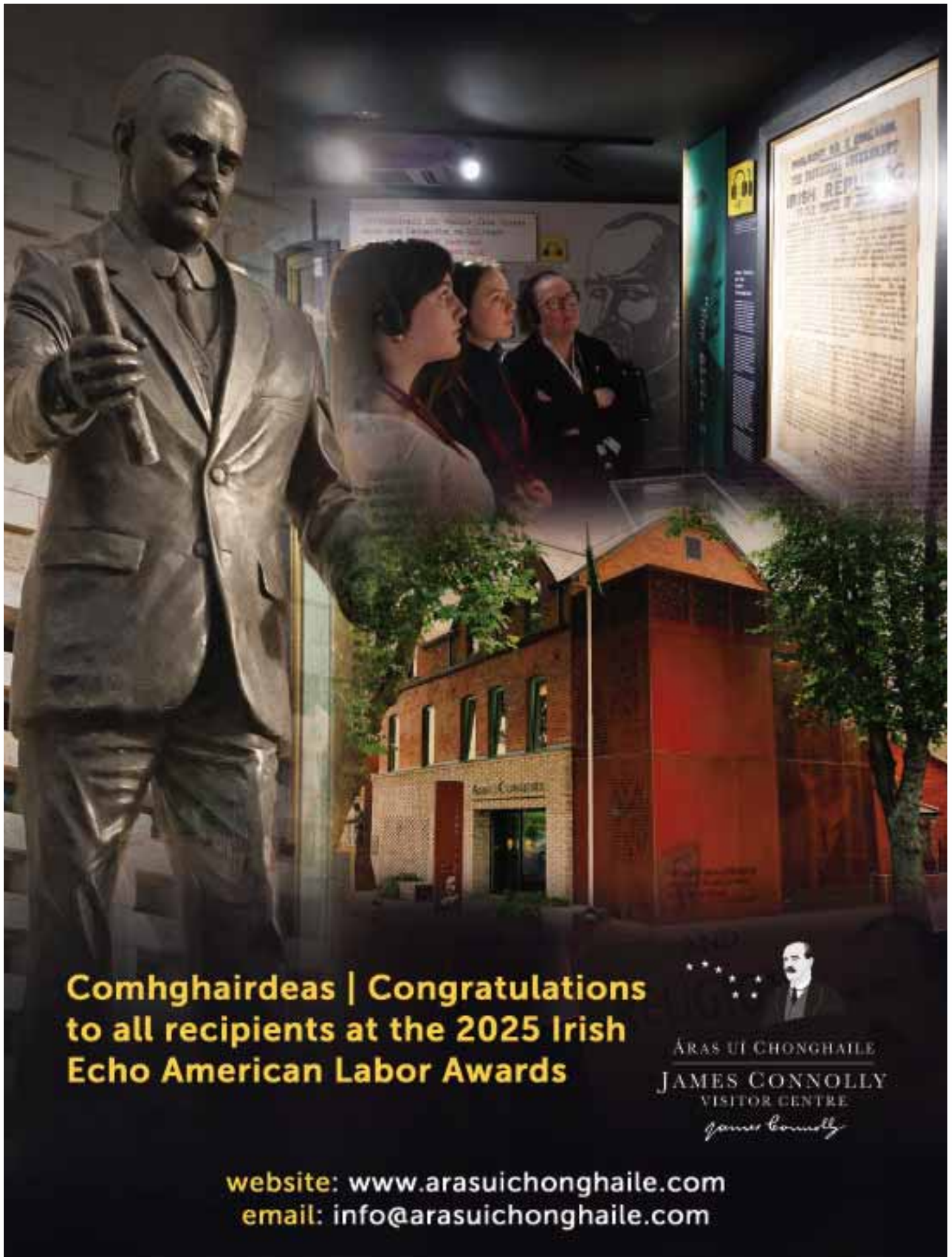
Trevor Holloway, Estimating Manager AECOM Tishman

Thomas Cleary, President, Local Union No. 3, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Kansas Carey Asadoorian, UA Local 21 plumbers and steamfitters; position: welder

Mary Jane Bertram, Hudson Valley Regional Director for the Workforce Development Institute

Shaun Murphy, Council Representative for the New York City District Council of Carpenters



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